

# Dr. Hunter McGuire

DAILY—WEEKLY—SUNDAY.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1907.

The poor man's honor is worth more than the rich man's gold.—German Proverb.

## The Ethics of Taxation.

It is a principle of Democracy that taxation should be limited to the necessities of a government wisely and economically administered. It is a principle of Democracy that every dollar taken from the pockets of the people beyond such necessities is unjust taxation. But it is false economy for a government to stint itself, and thereby fail to meet its obligations, when the tax-payers are able and willing to pay. Taxation in Richmond is not burdensome. The assessment is high, but the rate is low, and the people in general are willing to pay it. PROVIDED THE REVENUES THUS DERIVED ARE WELL EXPENDED FOR THEIR COMFORT AND CONVENIENCE. There is no demand for a 10 per cent. rate. On the contrary, we are informed that 250 property-owners requested that the tax-rate be raised, so that the city might be able to pay for all paving and relieve them of the annoyance of paying petty paving bills. Be that as it may, there is no general demand for a reduction in the rate, and The Times-Dispatch is convinced that it would be a mistake for the Council to adopt the recommendation of the Finance Committee to lower the rate from \$1.40 to \$1.35 on the hundred.

The slight reduction in rate would help nobody, but the deduction of \$50,000 from the city's revenues would mean short rations for several of the departments.

The Fire Department is in urgent need of more station men, and the Board of Health must have a more liberal allowance, especially for fighting tuberculosis. This is so urgent that the public will take no refusal. The Street Cleaning Department should by all means be enabled to use water liberally for flushing the streets, and there are various other demands which are imperative. The city can use the extra \$50,000 to great advantage. In fact, we do not see how it can get along comfortably without it.

If the Council will continue the present rate of taxation and so employ the revenues as to give us a cleaner, prettier, healthier city, and make Richmond more desirable and more convenient as a place of residence, the tax-payers will be well pleased. Give them the comforts and conveniences, and they will cheerfully pay the cost.

## Roosevelt and His Party.

The doctrine which President Roosevelt and Senator Beveridge are preaching in opposition to the rights of the States is not even true Republican doctrine. In 1856 the Republican convention declared that "the maintenance of the principles promulgated in the Declaration of Independence and embodied in the Federal Constitution is essential to the preservation of our republican institutions, and that the Federal Constitution, the rights of the State, and the union of the States shall be preserved." The convention of 1860 went even farther, and on its platform resolved:

"That the maintenance inviolate of the rights of the States, and especially the right of each State to order and control its own domestic institutions according to its own judgment exclusively, is essential to that balance of power on which the perfection and endurance of our political fabric depend."

That was the doctrine recognized by all parties prior to the war. This new doctrine of centralization was the outgrowth of the war.

## The Duty of Prophets.

In all ages the prophet who has cried aloud against the sins and errors of the age and uttered words of warning has been unpopular. No man loves to be told of his faults, no man loves to hear prophecies of evil. We are prone to shut our eyes and ears against a painful truth, and the greater and more painful the truth the more we are disposed to turn away from it.

The newspaper which plays the role of such a prophet is sure to offend. A little while ago some newspapers in the United States warned the managers of railroads that they were too indifferent to the interests of the public; that they were too much disposed to evade or defy the law and the lawful authorities; that they were too much given to fighting every regulation of law for their government, and that if they continued in that way

they would bring down the wrath of the people upon their own heads, and by and by they would have to beg for mercy.

The reply of the railroad managers to these words of warning was that these newspapers were unfriendly to railroads and were entering to public sentiment.

They may now answer to themselves whether or not the newspapers which warned them were right, and whether or not the warning was timely and friendly.

Some of these same newspapers are now warning the people and their representatives in Congress and the State Legislatures that they are going too far in prosecuting the railroads; that while regulation is necessary, it would be suicidal to make regulations so harsh as to cripple the roads and prevent them from making needed improvements and extensions which increased traffic and public convenience demand.

The reply of many people to these words of warning is that the newspapers who utter them are the servants and tools of the railroads.

It is not pleasant to perform the office of such a prophet; it is not pleasant to have one's motives impeached, but it is as much the duty of a newspaper to proclaim the truth as it sees the truth as it was for the prophets of old to proclaim the truth as revealed to them. No rational editor claims to be infallible, but when an honest editor proclaims what he believes to be an honest warning, it is wisdom for those concerned to consider the warning rather than to hunt between the lines for selfish motives.

The railroad managers would have saved themselves much trouble and a bitter experience if they had taken heed; the people and their representatives in Congress and the Legislatures will now do well to pause and reflect before they go too far in their prosecutions. The railroad managers and the law-makers would be wise if they would meet in friendly conference and adjust their differences in a business-like way, so as to serve the public interest without crippling the railroads.

## Harriman's Career—A Study.

Mr. E. H. Harriman, who is just now so much in the public eye, is one of the most intelligent and progressive railroad men that this country has produced. He has been perceptions, he has courage and indomitable energy, and he is a born captain of industry. His father was a Long Island clergyman, and young Harriman was a leader before he was out of his teens. At fourteen he went into a broker's office; at eighteen he had a partnership; at twenty-two he had a membership in the Stock Exchange; at thirty-six he was a director of the Illinois Central, and owned a little road of his own on Lake Ontario; at forty his Illinois Central stock was powerful enough to assist in making Sylvester Fish president and himself vice-president. He then retired from the brokerage business and devoted his time and energy exclusively to railroading. While Mr. Fish was abroad he acted as president of the Illinois Central and took advantage of his position to educate himself in his chosen occupation. In 1898 he got Kuhn, Loeb & Co. to back him in a movement to get possession of the Union Pacific. The syndicate paid the government \$57,000,000 in cash and \$27,000,000 to settle with the holders of the first mortgage bonds. In return they got 1,800 miles of poor, run-down, incompetently managed railroad from Omaha to Oregon, which was the beginning of the great system of 1907. Harriman was then fifty years of age, but still a vigorous man in body and mind. He saw a vision, he had a dream about the Union Pacific, and while some of his friends thought that he was nothing but a dreamer, he soon showed and convinced them that he was also a man of action. He made a new map of the Union Pacific, which carried the line across, instead of around, Great Salt Lake, thereby saving much in distance and more in grades and curves. His object was to obtain a route over which he could convey passengers and freight at less cost per mile, and his plan was carried out.

In six years he has put in more than \$200,000,000 in improvements on the Union Pacific and Southern Pacific lines, or \$14,000 to the mile on the system, over 14,000 miles long. Read the Union Pacific report from 1898 to 1906, and you may march with the man's coldly practical mind through the record of his campaign. There is no waste of words. He simply reports what he has done. Victory is the excuse for his autocracy of business, as it has been for the autocracy of generals on many occasions. With each year's record income per cent. increases and operating per cent. is curtailed. The Union Pacific of 1907, troubled in mileage, has gross earnings of \$127,500,000 and net earnings of \$47,100,000, against gross earnings of \$124,500,000 and net earnings of \$44,700,000 in 1906. Net earnings multiplied by ten and capital by less than three!

This brief outline of Harriman's career is taken from an article in Collier's Weekly by Frederick Palmer. It shows that Mr. Harriman started out with the right view, with the purpose of making a railroad whose business it should be to haul passengers and freight at the lowest possible cost, and to develop a profitable traffic. If Mr. Harriman had contented himself with this he would occupy an enviable position to-day in the business world. But after he had carried out his plans, which were altogether commendable, instead of being content to operate a system of roads which he had built up, he turned his attention to stock-jobbing.

The rest is well known. He has made millions for himself, but he has wrought great mischief. The distrust

of railroad management and popular prejudice against railroads are due in great part to Harriman's juggling, and his fate is sealed. Like others of his kind, he made riches the goal of his ambition; he preferred gold to good name and honor, and he has his reward. But the time will doubtless come when he would gladly exchange his tainted millions for the respect of the public, which he has forever forfeited.

## Religious Progress.

It is significant that various religious denominations in Virginia will have exhibits at the Jamestown Exposition. They are designed to teach history, and especially to impress the public with the fact that the churches are not lacking in enterprise, but that they have kept pace with the commercial and industrial progress of the State. The Christian religion is the handmaiden of progress, and always follows the flag. Whenever a Christian nation has planted its flag in heathen territory, the missionaries of the Christian church have been among the first to arrive and begin work. In the United States we have been very careful to keep state and church separate, and to allow neither to interfere with the other; but nevertheless state and church have marched side by side and progressed together. While separate and distinct, each is more or less dependent upon the other, and each has helped the other in making progress.

## Temperance Reform in Virginia.

Clifton Forge and Covington have both voted "dry," and after May 1st the whole of Alleghany county will be without saloons. We are informed that seventy-three of the 100 counties in Virginia, and eighty-seven per cent. of all the incorporated towns of the State are now "dry." Yet this change in Virginia has been brought about so gradually and so conservatively that there has been no serious agitation. The reason is that temperance men have not undertaken to work their reforms in advance of public sentiment. They educated public sentiment first, and then held elections. The campaign has been conducted with good judgment.

## A Brutal Crime.

The crime alleged against two ex-policemen of this city is so brutal and devilish as to make the blood of every decent citizen boil with indignation. We condemn no man before he has had a fair trial before a jury of his peers, but this infamous charge must be thoroughly investigated, and if it be proven against the persons accused, they must be punished in such a way as to make a notable example to all lawless scoundrels in this community. A brute is a brute, no matter what may be the color of his skin.

Engineer Stevens is to accept a new position with a superior honorarium attached, and Secretary Shaw is to become head of a gigantic trust company. Undoubtedly a place with the government helps some.

It would appear that the administration owes either a stinging rebuke to ex-Engineer Stevens or an humble apology to ex-Engineer Wallace. They are in the identical boat.

The movement now on foot to raise Secretary Leob's salary from \$6,000 to \$7,500 should easily succeed. William seems to do most of the work that is done in Washington.

If G. Washington were alive to-day, what chance would he have of working up a reputation for veracity with Mr. Roosevelt and Senator Bailey continually laying for him?

According to the Washington Herald, a Philadelphia man has just donated \$3 to the conscience fund in that city. It will cost him \$22,999,997 more to see Mr. Rockefeller.

Says Gen. de Castillo: "I feel contempt every time I see an American." Americans who meet the General hereafter are requested not to show it so plainly.

The steamship line which had the exclusive contract for hauling ex-employees from the Panama Canal could retire in about a year and a half.

The more the country becomes acquainted with far Eastern conditions, the more it is convinced that somebody has stuck us for a Filipino.

Inventor Edison says that he doesn't "know anything." We could tell him a few things on the general subject of graphophones.

Secretary Shaw is not seeking the Presidency, but intimates that the office may safely approach him without a suit of armor.

District Attorney Jerome announces that he is done with Mrs. Shaw, thus demonstrating his marked advantage over the rest of us.

Miss Mae Wood's anxiety to hold on to Hon. T. C. Platt must strike the United States Senate as incredibly eccentric.

Signor Caruso's demand for an elevated wage may indicate that he wants to maintain a little slum house of his own.

Mr. Smoot fought to stay in the Senate with an enemy worthy of a man who was struggling to get out of it.

The new Shah of Persia has 799 fewer wives than his predecessor, and seems quite willing to let it go at that.

The Interstate Commerce Commission appears to be handling Mr. Harriman a jolt on his map.

Thaw trials, it seems, are not confined particularly to any one State.

It develops that everybody shot up Brownsville but the Afro-Americans.

The trouble is that this is the only kind of dig the canal ever gets.

When on the Tatham, kick the Panama Canal. It has no friends.

Kouroupaiki's pen, anyway, seems mightier than his sword.

Dead passengers tell no tales.

# Rhymes for To-Day.

The Sonnet.

(Dedicated to the late Mr. Macbeth, who rendered it dead.)  
"Now bless the man who first invented verse!"  
Sang once upon a day old Sancho Panza:  
Which thought, no friends, is striking  
as the dead—  
To all who're blessed with this benign bonanza.

Sporadic pangs of wakefulness each  
But ah, 'twould take from some defunct  
handed Romney a  
Rare painting to portray the frightful  
woes  
Of them who suffer greatly from insomnia.

The theme is worn; a thousand poets,  
dead,  
Have piped sweet lullabies we  
could number  
To verify what placid Sancho said:  
"God bless the man who first invented  
slumber!"

And so—no more of Morpheus's kindly  
arms:  
Dismiss 'em with the sweet, fore-  
going blessing!  
And now—what oath for yonder  
clock's alarms  
That murder sleep and goad us up to  
dressing!

O timepiece of depraved, demonic  
screams!  
Rude clack of vocal chords too, too  
terrific!  
What care you for a tired party's  
dreams?  
What seek you of his pleasures  
soporific?

Not, not a cent! You're callous as a  
sheep!  
Now take the biting thought I've  
long been nursing:  
If blessings go to who invented sleep,  
Who thought up you, has earned  
Man's dearest blessing.  
H. S. H.

MERELY JOKING.

Willie.  
Little Willie Lautenslager  
Played with gimlet and with auger;  
Willie's grandpa promptly flogged him,  
Saying playful Willie boomed him.  
—Chicago Post.

Not the Same.  
"Does your husband smoke?"  
"No, but he fumes awfully sometimes."  
—Detroit Free Press.

Defined.  
"Has that novel a plot?"  
"No," answered the man with an unlovely  
disposition. "It is merely another device  
to get money from a careless public. It  
isn't a plot. It's a conspiracy."  
—Washington Star.

Not Lovelorn.  
"Johnny, do you love your teacher?"  
"Why, I'm astonished."  
"Why, I'm astonished."  
"Why, I'm astonished." She turned down  
six boys.  
—Louisville Courier-Journal.

The Gaiety Occupation.  
"Our contention," said the lawyer for the  
litigious person, "is that our client's hand  
was so injured by the accident that for six  
months he has been unable to write."  
"That contention," proclaimed the de-  
fense, "is that this very disability has saved  
the plaintiff so much money in postage that  
he really is our debt."  
Then the case went to trial.—Philadelphia  
Ledger.

The Rich Uncle.  
"Old Uncle Roxley is so poorly," she said.  
"I suppose meat any day now he'll be  
called to attend his funeral."  
"Oh, stop!" her brother remonstrated.  
"You're forever thinking of your own pleas-  
ure all that sort of thing."  
—Philadelphia Press.

POINTS FROM PARAGRAPHERS.  
To restore public confidence the railroads  
might print testimonials from pas-  
sengers who have ridden on their  
lines a number of times and never have  
been killed.—Baltimore Sun.

"I do not know a thing," says Mr. Thomas  
Edison. Some one should introduce Mr.  
Edison to Harry Lehr.—Washington Herald.

The cost of running the government has  
been the last ten years. If it doubles  
every ten years, just what station will  
the National Treasury get off?—New York  
American.

Castro is still himself. He declines to  
pay the debt to nature.—Cleveland  
Leader.

The California delegation shouldn't plume  
itself; anybody can get an invitation  
to dine with Vice-President Fairbanks from  
now to the date of the national convention.—  
Detroit News.

One of the most recent book reviews of  
the month is Senator Beveridge's glowing  
indorsement of the Old Testament.—Kansas  
City Star.

Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Leese's remark that  
she has never any more seen the days  
of Adam would seem to imply a rather long  
acquaintance extending over a considerable  
period.—Providence Tribune.

## COMMENT OF VIRGINIA EDITORS.

Gov. Swanson's Position Endorsed.  
Six of the eleven Southern Governors have  
declined to appoint commissioners to a con-  
ference on the race question. These are  
Governors Glenn of North Carolina; Akers  
of South Carolina; Broward of Florida;  
Barnes of Alabama; and Campbell of Texas.  
Governor Swanson of Virginia, the first  
to respond, Governor Blanchard, of  
Louisiana, the second, and the State, and  
Governor of Arkansas had not been asked  
the defect of the proposition is as-  
suredly as all the world knows. The  
five were to appoint commissioners the  
conference would represent a minority of  
the States of the South. Governor  
Swanson's letter has been widely  
complimented for its sagacity and felicity  
of expression.—Danville Register.

Prof. A. M. Soule and the V. P. I.  
The expressions of a correspondent under  
the nom de plume of "A Friend of Science,"  
in the Public Opinion column of the Times-  
Dispatch of June 13th, when the corner-  
stone of the new library building of the  
college is to be laid.

The Governor said he would have to  
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## People Seen in Public Places

Hon. Preston W. Campbell, of Abingdon, Commonwealth's Attorney of Washington county and member of the recent Constitutional Convention, is at Murphy's on his way home from Washington, D. C., where he has been for several days.

Mr. Campbell went to the national capital in the interest of his brother, Mr. E. K. Campbell, of Birmingham, Ala., who is a candidate for the Federal judgeship of that district.

Asked concerning the political situation in Washington county, Mr. Campbell said the Democrats were preparing for a winning campaign for the Legislature and county offices this fall.

"I sure will send down two Democratic representatives to the House of Delegates," he said, "and we will do our best to land a Democratic successor to Senator Lincoln from the district, composed of the counties of Washington and Smyth and the city of Bristol."

"So far there has been but little talk of candidates. It will not be so much a question of the ambitions of men as the choice of the strongest and best to lead us in our battle."

"We are going to put up a ticket whose character and popularity will appeal to the people, and then get behind it with a firm determination to win."

"Will you stand for Commonwealth's Attorney again?" he was asked.

"Yes," was the reply. "I will be in the race, and will ask the people to endorse my administration of the affairs of the office."

Colonel James R. Caton, member of the House from Alexandria city and county, is in the city, and is stopping at the Richmond.

Hon. Thomas B. Murphy, formerly of this city, but now of Alexandria, is here, and is registered at Murphy's. Mr. Murphy was a lumber merchant during his residence in Richmond, and was quite active in politics. He represented Jefferson Ward for a number of years in the Commonwealth and served one term in the House of Delegates. When he left Richmond he moved to Westmoreland, where he engaged in farming and the manufacture of lumber. Recently he went into the latter business on an extended scale and removed his family to Alexandria.

Holding his legal residence in Alexandria, he was asked his opinion as to the light for the late Congressman Riley's successor in the Eighth District. He said from what he could hear Judge Charles E. Nicol, of Prince William, had the inside track. Mr. Murphy expressed a very high regard for the ability of Judge Nicol. Said he was deservedly popular in the district.

Dr. Lyon G. Tyler and Mr. H. W. Cowles, representing the faculty of William and Mary College called upon Governor Swanson yesterday, and invited his excellency to make a speech in Williamsburg on June 13th, when the corner-stone of the new library building of the college is to be laid.

The Governor said he would have to decline for the reason that this will be Virginia Day at the Jamestown Exposition. Dr. Tyler and Mr. Cowles that said they would lay the matter before the faculty with the view of having the ceremonies at an earlier date, as they are very desirous to have the Governor present.

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